

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 8, 19, 20, 24-26 have been amended.

Claims 27, 31, 32 and 34 have been cancelled, without prejudice to their resubmission.

Claims 1- 26, 28-30 and 33 are pending, with claim 1 being independent.

Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification, for example paragraphs [0038] and [0044]-[0046] as well as Figures 1, 1A and 1B.

Interview with the Examiner

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of telephonic interviews concerning the pending claims. While no agreement was reached during the telephonic interviews, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and effort in connection with the examination of this application.

Rejections

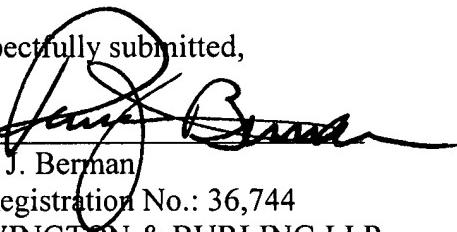
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, define an invention that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the art of record. None of the cited references discloses or renders obvious a radio-opaque holder that includes all of the features recited in claim 1, including (i) the holder having a rigid surface that substantially matches an opening defined by the patient-end surface of an NMR magnet, and (ii) the rigid end of the holder configured to abut completely and adjoin to the patent-end surface of the NMR magnet. Moreover, with reference to Palkovich et al., Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion that the alternative magnets would be effective, alone or in combination with the teachings of Hoult et al. to form the substantially complete and substantially continuous RF shield recited in the claims of the present application.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the final limitation recited in claim 1, and the rest of the limitations are not merely directed to the intended use of the holder. Rather, the claimed holder is configured to form an electrical coupling between the holder and the radio-opaque portion of the cryostat. The claimed holder is also configured so that, when the holder is electrically coupled to the radio-opaque portion of the cryostat, the holder, the radio-opaque portion of the cryostat and a radio-opaque covering form a substantially complete and continuous RF shield. Applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that these are not mere statements of intended use but instead require the holder to be structured so that it will provide the necessary configuration and electrical connections to form, in conjunction with the radio-opaque portion of the cryostat and the radio-opaque covering, the substantially complete and substantially continuous RF shield of the claim.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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